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AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps funding is available for the 2004-2005 program year. Known as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps engages members



in service to address community challenges in education, the environment, public safety, and health/human needs. Eligible applicants include entities such as community- and faith-based organizations, government agencies, K-12 schools, colleges and universities. The Request For Proposal, information on outreach sessions, toolkits, and sample materials are available at www.goserv.ca.gov/grants/currenttopps.asp. Applications are due by Monday, January 5, 2004.



Appropriations: A current federal appropriations spending bill brings the Corporation for National and Community Service one step closer to receiving the largest funding increase in its history. If the appropriations bill is passed, AmeriCorps will be restored and expanded beyond previous funding levels. This increase will allow GO SERV to provide local California communities with AmeriCorps programs and members to help solve community challenges. To read more about the bill, link to <http://www.saveamericorps.org>.

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

GO SERV's mission is to bring Californians together to meet community challenges through service and volunteerism. By working together, we can make a meaningful impact on our communities. To find a local volunteer opportunity, link to the GO SERV website (<http://www.goserv.ca.gov/volunteer/volunteer.asp>).



Citizen Corps:

GO SERV has received 50 applications for 2003 Citizen Corps grants. Funded programs will increase the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) efforts in neighborhoods by training residents to assist first responders during a disaster or emergency. GO SERV also received the application for the 2004 Citizen Corps program and is working closely with the state Office of Emergency Services and Office of Homeland Security to complete an application for funding from the federal Department of Homeland Security. GO SERV anticipates that Citizen Corps 2004 funding will be nearly double what it has been; to read more, link to <http://www.goserv.ca.gov/cc/cc.asp>.

Fires: GO SERV was heavily involved with the Southern California fires. Two staff members were dispatched to the Disaster Field Office in Pasadena, and another was sent to the State Operations Center in Sacramento to coordinate volunteers efforts. RSVP volunteers in San Bernardino worked 11-16 hour shifts assisting the Phelan Sheriff with evacuation efforts. AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps members from Sacramento were deployed to San Bernardino to provide shelter, food, clothing, relocation, and counseling services to victims. Foster Grandparents, from Catholic Charities of San Diego, served in local parishes and shelters to provide childcare for families not able to return to their homes. AmeriCorps City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley members served as Spanish translators in the San Bernardino Local Assistance Center. AmeriCorps members from the National Readiness and Response Corps in LA were deployed to San Diego to serve as mass care technicians, helping run emergency shelters for evacuees and serving meals to firefighters. Countless Californians donated time and resources to help those affected by the fires, and we at GO SERV thank them for their efforts.

Spotlights: Over the past two months, GO SERV recognized several volunteers for their efforts to improve their communities. One Spotlight recipient began an organization focused on providing in-home care to terminally ill pets (<http://www.goserv.ca.gov/spotlights/feature052.asp>), while a group of volunteers from Kern County provide children in state care with an adult advocate to represent their needs (<http://www.goserv.ca.gov/spotlights/feature055.asp>).

Our most recent Spotlight highlights Janet Sparks, who provided critical help to victims of the Southern California wildfires—see her story at www.goserv.ca.gov. To nominate a person or program, link to <http://216.102.105.127/spotlights/submit.html>.

Governor's Conference on Service, Volunteerism, and Mentoring:

The Governor's Conference has been postponed. We will alert everyone with the new date! To learn more about the conference, visit <http://www.goserv.ca.gov/events/gcpub.asp>.



The Giving Years: GO SERV has released a report called *The Giving Years: Engaging the Time, Talent, and Experience of Older Californians in Intergenerational Service*, which focuses on assessing the potential impacts and rewards of engaging older

Californians in service opportunities throughout the state. To download the report and the companion survey called *Assessment of Seniors in Service*, link to <http://www.goserv.ca.gov/news/reports.asp>.